



## ESA STATE/TRIBAL RELATIONS UNIT

### MISSION

The Economic Services Administration (ESA) State Tribal Relations Unit (STRU) strives to bring about successful Child Support and TANF Programs for Washington State Tribes, through effective State/Tribal relationships, for the benefit of tribal families.

### VISION

STRU promotes and supports government-to-government relationships with Washington Tribes, recognizing Indian sovereignty in the development and delivery of programs and services. Through STRU's efforts and effective partnerships with Tribal Governments, Tribal members and families achieve the highest degree of self-sufficiency possible.

#### Guiding Principles

**Tribal Sovereignty** – We recognize and value the sovereign status of tribes and will work with tribes on a government-to-government basis.

**Partnership Building** – We strive to build partnership relationships and trust between the tribes and ESA Divisions. We believe that honesty and integrity are essential in all our transactions and communication.

**Education & Training** – We will facilitate training to tribes and ESA to promote awareness and understanding of state/tribal issues

**Policy Consultation** – We value effective and meaningful consultation between ESA and tribes regarding policy development and implementation

**Culturally Appropriate Services** – In all we do, we will value and respect differences by supporting ESA in providing culturally appropriate services to tribes.



## Goals

### **Goal 1: Ensure Greater Understanding of ESA Programs, Tribal Options and STRU Services**

- OBJECTIVE 1: Develop, in Partnership with ESA Programs, Communication Tools That Easily Explain ESA Options to Tribes.
- OBJECTIVE 2: Develop Matrix That Outlines the Roles and Responsibilities of STRU and the Relationship with Stakeholders.
- OBJECTIVE 3: Provide Outreach to Tribes to Educate and Encourage the Adoption of State/Tribal DCS/TANF Agreements.

### **Goal 2: Coordinate Negotiations of Child Support/TANF Agreements Between ESA and the Tribes**

- OBJECTIVE 1: Develop Policies to Ensure Smooth Negotiations.
- OBJECTIVE 2: Develop Jointly with Tribes, Easily Read and Understood Agreements.

### **Goal 3: Dedicate Resources to Ensure Smooth Development, Implementation and Operation of Tribal Programs**

- OBJECTIVE 1: Develop Tribal Specific “Program Implementation Plans” Outlining Processes and Procedures; and Roles and Responsibilities Between the Tribes and ESA.
- OBJECTIVE 2: Provide Technical Assistance to Tribes and ESA Divisions.
- OBJECTIVE 3: Provide Policy Recommendations and Analysis to Tribes, ESA and DSHS.